

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 7, 2005.

Reconsideration of this application in view of the below remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 29 are pending in the application with Claims 1, 9, 18 and 24 being in independent form. By the present amendment, Claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 18, 23, 24 and 29 have been amended. No new subject matter has been introduced by way of the present amendment.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-21, 23-27 and 29 are allowed.

I. Rejection of Claim 6 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, which Applicants regard as their own.

Specifically, the present Office Action states the lack of antecedent basis for the limitation “the old map” recited in Claim 6. In response, Claim 6 has been amended such that the term “old map” is replaced with “initial map”. In addition, Claims 14, 23 and 29 also recite “the old map”, thus these claims have been amended in the same manner as Claim 6.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection with respect to Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

II. Rejection of Claims 6, 13, 22 and 28 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 6, 13, 22 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Firstly, it should be pointed out that Claims 14, 23 and 29 recite similar limitations as Claim 6 and Claim 5 recites similar limitations as Claims 13, 22 and 28. Therefore Claims 5, 14, 23 and 29 ...

Lack of enablement in Claims 6, 13, 22 and 28 is found to be the result of an error in Claims 1, 9, 18 and 24 from which those claims depend. Specifically, Claims 1, 9, 18 and 24 recite: "...sending a free buffer enquiry to each address which is determined to be missing from the initial map..." However, this limitation should recite: ... sending a free buffer enquiry to each address in the initial map which is determined to be missing from the new map..." Therefore Claims 1, 9, 18 and 24 have been amended to correct this error.

As a result of the amendments to Claims 1, 9, 18 and 24, Claims 6, 13, 22 and 28 now recite the limitations of sending a free buffer enquiry to each address in the initial map which is determined to be missing from the new map. The free buffer enquiry is performed by searching the initial map from the lowest to the highest value for ones; and the free buffer enquiry is performed by searching the initial map for the next address with a one as long as a one exists in the initial map. A one is written into memory to indicate a response to the transmitted token rotation and a zero is written into memory to indicate no response has been received from the transmitted token rotation.


Support for the amendments to Claims 1, 9, 18 and 24 are found throughout the specification, particularly in FIG.3a, block 306, and paragraphs 0043 and 0044. Therefore, Claims 6, 13, 22 and 28 are believed to be patentably distinct and allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection with respect to Claims 6, 13, 22 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-29 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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